

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 7 and 15 are amended and claims 16-20 are added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending, of which claims 1, 7 and 16 are independent. No new matter will be incorporated into the present application by entry of this Amendment. If the Office determines that any additional fees are deemed to be necessary with the filing of this Amendment, then the Office is authorized and requested to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 061910.

Objections

The Examiner objected to the disclosure, stating that on page 6, lines 1-5, it is unclear with respect to what a “reduced diameter region” between the wheels 2 and the flanges 20 is referring to. Applicant has amended the disclosure to delete the term “reduced diameter”. Applicant believes the disclosure is clear. The Examiner also objected to claims 1, 5, and 15 for certain informalities. Applicant has amended claim 1, 5, and 15 to address the Examiner’s concerns.

§103 Rejection

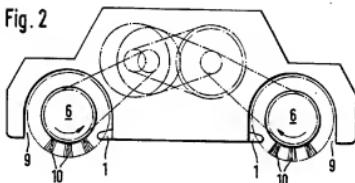
The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-7 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaulig ‘025. The Examiner also rejected claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaulig ‘025 in view of Keller ‘659. The Examiner also rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaulig ‘025 in view of Worwag ‘939. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in light of the claim amendments and following arguments.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide that as the brush rotates, the bristles are held behind the deflecting means until their resilience causes them to spring past said deflecting means in a flicking movement during which the bristles strike said surface to be cleaned.

Claim 7 has been amended to provide that the deflector is configured to halt the progress of the bristles until the brush rotates sufficiently to force the bristles past the deflector, such that

the resilience of the bristles causing them to spring past the deflector in a flicking movement during which the bristles strike the surface to be cleaned.

A prima facie case of obviousness would not be established with respect to the amended claims because neither Kaulig nor Worwag teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Kaulig teaches that as brush rollers rotate in a housing, corners or edges of the carpet will be pushed into the housing by the brush rollers and choke or cause damage to the housing. *See, e.g., Col. 1, lines 28-33.* With reference to Kaulig's Figure 2, illustrated below, Kaulig seeks to solve this problem by providing a housing having carpet deflectors 1 positioned in an aperture 9 on the side in which the bristles 10 of the brush rollers 6 enter the interior of the housing 2. *See, e.g., Col. 2, lines 62-68.*



Kaulig's carpet deflectors 1 are located at a point in which the bristles enter the housing and are designed to prevent carpet from entering the housing. Claims 1 and 7 call for the bristles to spring past the deflector in a flicking movement *during which* the bristles strike the surface to be cleaned. In contrast, as the Kaulig bristles 10 are moved pass the deflectors 1, any deflection or flicking motion would take place while *inside* of the housing, not while the bristles strike the surface to be cleaned. Thus, Kaulig does not disclose all of the features of claims 1 or 7. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to these claims and claims depending thereon.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 16-20. Like claims 1 and 7, new independent claim 16 calls for the bristles to spring past the deflector in a flicking movement *during which* the bristles

strike the surface to be cleaned. Claim 16 is also patentable for the reasons already provided for claims 1 and 7.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. Applicant believes no fee is due to enter the present Amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required to Deposit Account No. 061910. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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